

S_M -280

c. 1870-1890

Steven and Lucy Jones House

Abell

Private

This two story, frame house began its history as a smaller one story dwelling with one room down and another up. It was the residence of a Black landowning family, and it was enlarged to its present size by their son. He also carved the bannisters for the new stairway.

S M -280
JONES HOUSE
Abell
Private

last quarter 19th century

late 19th cent.

This two-story frame dwelling, owned by black farmer William Jones, was built as a smaller one-story dwelling. Circa 1918 his son Steven hired black carpenters to double its size. Among the details made by Steven Jones ~~were~~ the hand-carved banisters in an alternating repeated design for the stairs in the central hallway. His alert, 90-year-old widow, Lucy Jones, lives here today with a host of family mementoes.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

SM - 280

PAGE # 1902805604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Steven and Lucy Jones House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East side of Abell Road, 100 yards south of the Post Office.

CITY, TOWN

Abell

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

St. Mary's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Lucy Jones

Telephone #: 301-769-3329

STREET & NUMBER

Abell Road

CITY, TOWN

Abell

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20606

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Mary's County Courthouse

Liber #: P Map 47, P. 83

Folio #: 170/82

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED
☐ GOOD ☐ RUINS
☒ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

According to the current owner and occupant, Mrs. Lucy Jones, who is 91 years old, this two-story house began its history as a smaller and simpler structure. When she first knew it in the early 1900's, she said that it had only 1 story with 1 room downstairs and another upstairs. It was covered with weatherboards and had a simple gable roof. It had been built by William Jones, her future father-in-law; she did not know the date. In 1910, Mrs. Jones married his son, Steven Jones, and a few years later, probably in circa 1918, they doubled the length, adding a central hallway and another room on the east side and built another story. To the roof line was added a cross gable pediment. As best as could be determined without disrupting the weatherboard siding, both the original and the additional frame were balloon frame, and the members fastened by wire nails toed into place. At the same time as the enlargement, a separate kitchen was constructed; in later years, a room was built connecting this kitchen to the main block. According to Mrs. Jones, the improvements were made by local black carpenters, Bob Woodland and Moses Rustin, both of whom have since died.

This house is not without its decorative features. The weatherboards are painted white, the roof red, and the trim around all the door and window openings green. The interior contains several heavy pieces of oak furniture, of a style popular to the turn of the century, that Mrs. Jones purchased at the time of her marriage. In addition, the house contains other personal features. For example, the bannisters of alternating design were carved by Steven Jones, who according to Mrs. Jones, was always making things with his hands and who wished to create and add something of his own for the new parts of the house.

A particularly significant feature of the house is the arrangement of the mantelpiece, for it shows the continuity of tradition, even when the utilitarian function has been left behind. A brick stove flue ascends the interior gable wall of the "sitting room," leaving no place nor purpose of a traditional mantelpiece above the hearth. Nonetheless, a mantelpiece of molded, decorative boards was built against the wall a few feet to the side of the flue. As on other mantelpieces, there are objects special to the family's history and values placed upon or hung above it: pictures of the family, both old and young; of religious figures (Jesus and the Virgin Mary, Mrs. Jones being Catholic); and decorative objects. Though the mantle no longer commands its traditional central place around the firebox, it still serves as a place to display, and give homage to, those things valued by the inhabitants.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
				Black History	

SPECIFIC DATES Circa 1870's - 80's BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Jones

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As part of this survey, Mrs. Jones was photographed, and the tenant house in which she was raised was recorded (the Robert Ed Coles House). Despite her age, Mrs. Jones' mind remains sharp. Furthermore, she speaks her mind when she thinks it fit, a characteristic that makes her respected in the Abell community among both the whites and blacks with whom I spoke.

Two stories were told to me about her by a white informant that reveal her efforts to maintain her sense of self within the structures of a traditionally white supremacist culture. The first was that until recently it had long been the custom for whites to address older blacks by the title "Uncle" or "Aunt." Yet Mrs. Jones had always refused to be so named, answering the white person sometimes gently, sometimes energetically, "My name's Lucy, I'm no kin to you." The other anecdote was that in her younger years, Mrs. Jones used to walk to the Holy Angels' Church (Roman Catholic) every Sunday, a distance of three miles each way. A white man in the community, who was known as something of a tough character, would stop his car and ask her if she would like a ride. She would answer, "Yes, if I can sit in the front seat." He would refuse, as that was against the racial code, and drive on. This happened not once, or twice, but continued for years. Between them, it became an ongoing test of will; and it became a ritual for their respective black and white communities, a ritual that revealed the distance and the closeness between the two races in this small, southern, "peaceful" community, and the private, earnest battles within it.

After her husband's death in 1939, Mrs. Jones worked hard to hang on to the family property and has succeeded so far. The house is deteriorating, and like many of the black landowners' houses recorded in this survey, will probably be torn down after her death.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Serge McDaniel

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

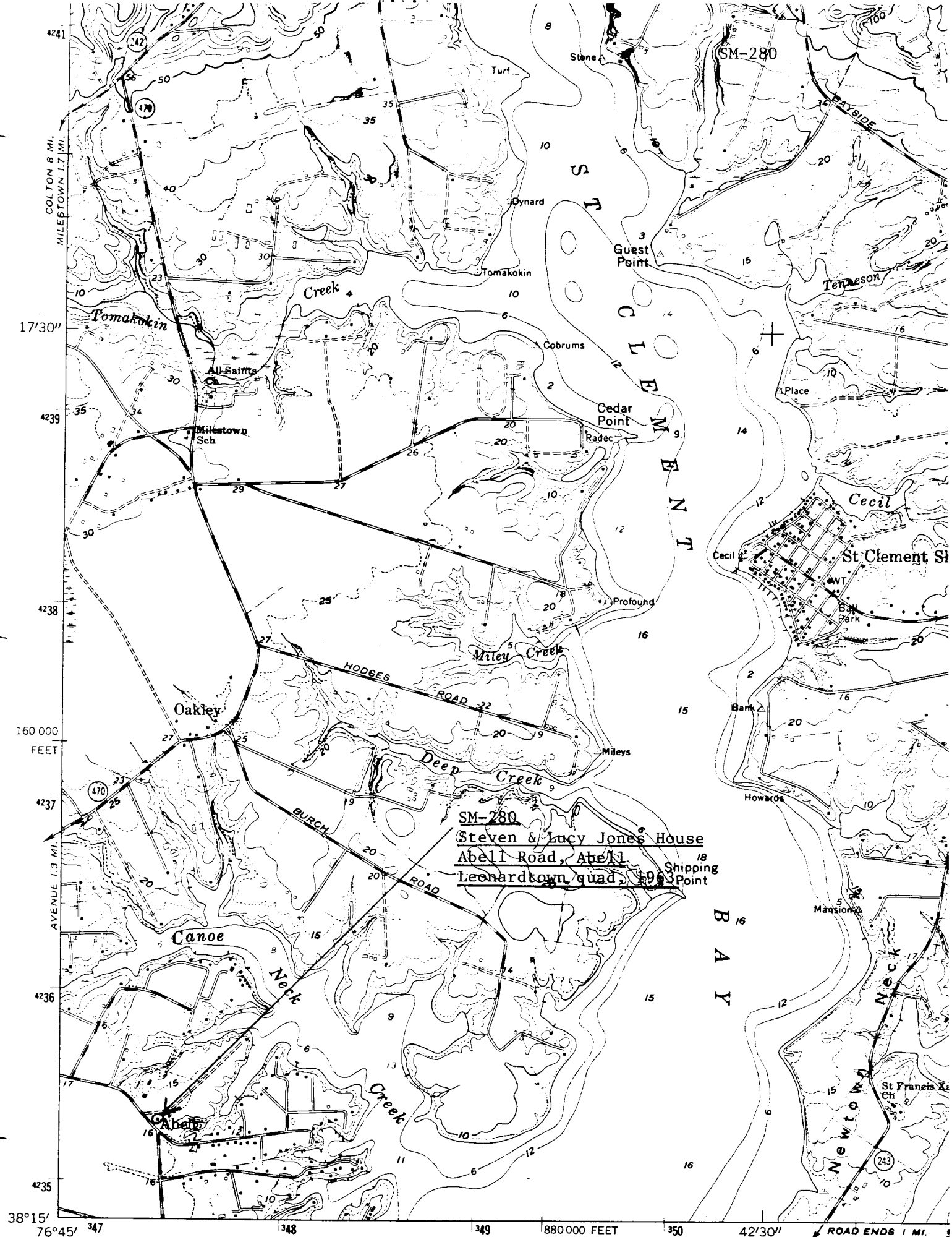
CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



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MN

1



SP-180

STEVEN and Lucy Jones House

STMA 280

Aber, Md.

WEST facade

GWM — 1/77



STMA 280

STEVEN and Lucy Jones House
STMA 280

Abell, Md.

NORTH EAST VIEW

GWM- 1/77